

## Farmer Collaboration Fund - Dorset approach

**This survey closes on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Completed paper responses can be posted to Natural Environment Team E4, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ.**

**Alternatively, you can scan your completed response and email it to [LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or you can respond in an [online form](#).**

### Overview-

**Government funding for farmer collaboration and peer learning is changing.**

As part of the [Farming Roadmap](#), the Farmer Collaboration Fund will provide £30 million across England between now and March 2029 to support advice and collaboration on environmental outcomes and farm business performance.

Through this fund, Defra plans to appoint delivery partners who will be responsible for managing and distributing the funding to clusters and groups.

#### **What this could look like for Dorset -**

In Dorset, Farming & Wildlife Group South West (FWAG SW), Dorset National Landscape, and Dorset Council (nature recovery) are exploring the opportunity to have a county-wide delivery partner.

As previous funding for collaboration comes to an end, we're keen to secure this new funding to continue and expand the strong collaborative working already taking place across Dorset.

A Dorset-wide approach would:

- Recognise the excellent work that clusters and groups are already doing
- Maintain the independence of clusters and groups
- Identify opportunities to expand or create new clusters, and increase peer learning

Full details of the fund are still to be announced. In the meantime, we are seeking feedback from:

- Existing clusters
- Informal groups (e.g. breakfast clubs or interest groups)

- Individuals interested in joining a cluster or getting involved in collaborative opportunities

### How to tell us your views -

Please complete this form to share your views on the proposal to apply to the Farmer Collaboration Fund as a Dorset-wide delivery partner.

If you are responding to this survey as a cluster or informal group, please discuss your answers together and submit one group response.

This survey will take around 10 minutes to complete.

If you would like to complete this survey in a different way, please email [LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

Any information you provide will be treated confidentially in line with [Dorset Council Data Protection](#) policy.

## Consent

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (Dorset team), Dorset National Landscape, and Dorset Council's nature recovery team are exploring a potential partnership bid to the Farmer Collaboration Fund.

This survey is a joint piece of work to help shape the partnership bid.

If you do not consent to sharing your responses with Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG SW) and Dorset National Landscape, you will **not** be able to submit a response.

If you would like to discuss this further, please email [LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

### 1. Do you consent for your response to be shared with Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG SW) and Dorset National Landscape? *\*Required*

Please tick below:

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No (End of survey) |

## Who are you responding as

### 2. Who are you responding as? *\*Required*

#### More information on the meaning of: Cluster and an informal group

**Cluster:** is a farmer-led collaboration where neighbouring farmers and landowners work together across their boundaries to improve the environment on a landscape scale, typically supported by a facilitator or advisor.

**An informal group:** any groups of farmers who meet less formally than a cluster, for example hold a breakfast club or who gather to discuss a particular interest topic

Please tick below:

|                          |                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A cluster – Please go to question 4                                                                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | An informal group (e.g. discussion or breakfast group) – Please go to question 3                                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | An individual interested in joining a cluster, or getting involved in collaborative opportunities – Please go to question 21 |

## Informal Group

### 3. Would you be interested in becoming a formal cluster?

Please tick below:

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No  |

## Details about your group

### 4. What is the name of your cluster or group? *\*Required*

Please answer below:

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**5. What is your name? *\*Required***

Please answer below:

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**6. What is your role within the group? *\*Required***

Please tick primary role only.

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Facilitator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lead Farmer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Member      |

**7. What is your email address or telephone number? *\*Required***

Please answer below:

Email address or telephone number:

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## Information about your group

**8. Does your group have an agreed constitution for how the group work?**  
*\*Required, please go to page 5 to answer*

**More information on a constitution-**

A constitution could be a document that sets out how the cluster or group is organised, governed and operated.

It often includes the shared aims, objectives or targets that a cluster has agreed to work on.

It could also clarify how decisions are made, ways of working and different roles and responsibilities.

Please tick below:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
|  | Yes      |
|  | No       |
|  | Not sure |

**9. How many years has your group been running? *\*Required***

Please tick below:

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
|  | Less than 1 year      |
|  | Between 2 and 3 years |
|  | More than 4 years     |

**10. What are the number of participating businesses within your group?  
*\*Required***

Please answer below:

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**11. What is the area covered by your group in hectares? *\*Required***

A hectare is a metric unit of land equally to 10,000m<sup>2</sup> (equal to 2.471 acres)

Please provide your nearest estimate below:

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**12. Would your group be willing to share a map or spatial file to show the area they cover?**

Please tick below:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
|  | Yes |
|  | No  |

## Future

**13. Is there potential for your cluster or group to expand? *\*Required***

Please tick below:

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Not sure |

**If yes, how many more farm businesses could potentially join within the next three years?**

Please answer below:

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**14. What topics is your cluster or group currently focusing on?**

Please answer below:

**15. What new areas of work or topics might your cluster or group consider exploring in the future? *Please go to page 7 to answer***

Please answer below:

## What do you think of the proposed approach

**We would like your thoughts on the proposed Dorset-wide approach to the Farmer Collaboration Fund.**

Government funding for farmer collaboration and peer learning is changing. The Farmer Collaboration Fund will provide £30 million across England between now and March 2029 to support advice and collaboration on environmental outcomes and farm business performance.

Through this fund, Defra plans to appoint delivery partners who will be responsible for managing and distributing the funding to clusters and groups. This should reduce the administrative burden on individual facilitators.

In Dorset, Farming & Wildlife Group South West, Dorset National Landscape, and Dorset Council (Nature Recovery Team) are exploring the opportunity to have a county-wide delivery partner. As previous funding for collaboration comes to an end, we're keen to secure this new funding to continue and expand the strong collaborative working already taking place across Dorset.

A Dorset-wide approach would:

- Recognise the excellent work that clusters and groups are already doing
- Maintain the independence of clusters and groups
- Identify opportunities to expand or create new clusters, and increase peer learning
- 

Full details of the fund are still to be announced. In the meantime, we would like to hear your views on this proposal to apply to the Farmer Collaboration Fund as a Dorset-wide delivery partner

**16. To what extent do you support or oppose the proposed Dorset-wide approach to the Farmer Collaboration Fund? *\*Required***

Please tick below:

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Strongly support           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Somewhat support           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Neither support nor oppose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Somewhat oppose            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Strongly oppose            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Not sure                   |

**17. What are the strengths, if any, of the proposal for a Dorset-wide delivery partner?**

Please answer below:

**18. What are the weaknesses, if any, of the proposal for a Dorset-wide delivery partner?**

Please answer below:

**19. What opportunities, if any, might arise from having a Dorset-wide delivery partner?**

Please answer below:

**20. Do you have any further comments about the proposal for a Dorset-wide delivery partner?**

Please answer below:

## Getting others involved

**21. Do you know of other group/s or farmers who may meet informally?**

Please tick below:

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No  |

If yes, please provide the group/s name: *\*Please go to page 10 to answer*

Please answer below:

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If possible, please share the survey link or PDF copy with this group.

*End of Survey for cluster or informal group response*

## Individual

**22. What is your name? *\*Required***

Please answer below:

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**23. What is your email address or telephone number? *\*Required***

Please answer below:

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**24. What is the name of your farm business/es? *\*Required***

Please answer below:

**25. What is the postcode of your farm business/es? *\*Required***

Please answer the postcode of your farm business/es:

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**26. What is the size of your farm business/es in hectares? *\*Required***

**A hectare is a metric unit of land equally to 10,000m<sup>2</sup> (equal to 2.471 acres)**

Please provide your nearest estimate below:

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**27. What are you interested in joining? *\*Required***

Please tick all that apply

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Joining a cluster         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Joining an informal group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Peer to peer workshops    |

*End of survey for individual*

Thank you.